

Content Standards Informer

Curriculum and Instruction Unit



March 2012

Montana Common Core Standards

Updated Webpage

The [OPI home Web page](#) includes a new tab under Current Events, Montana Common Core Standards. You will find many tools, documents, presentations and links for the Montana Common Core Standards on the Getting Started, English Language Arts and Literacy, Mathematics, Professional Development Resources, and Assessment pages. Please visit the website often as new information and tools will be added frequently. We appreciate your comments to create the most useful resource.

Professional Learning Opportunities

Over 300 participants attended the Montana Common Core Standards workshops in November and December with more than 175 of those participants attending facilitator training. Please contact your Regional Service Area to arrange professional learning for your district and/or school. Contact information and a map for Montana's Regional Service Areas can be found at http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/Index.html?gpm=1_12.

Four things to remember as the Montana Common Core Standards are being implemented.

1. Students are at the center of the standards, curriculum, instruction and assessment.
2. "Walk, Don't Run"- The first step is to know the content of each set of standards.
This knowledge is foundational for
 - determining use of your current instructional materials;
 - the development, adaptation, or use of recommended model curriculum; and
 - selection of new standards-based instructional materials.
3. The formative assessment process is the foundation during the transition to Montana Common Core Standards.
4. Professional development during each step of implementation provides essential support.

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium released draft content specifications for mathematics and English Language Arts and Literacy. Examining these drafts will give a valuable view into the assessment of the Montana Common Core Standards.

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org>

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is putting together a Montana Common Core Standards and Assessment (MCCS) Webinar series of 30 minute sessions on updated and focused information: Overview II, Next Steps, and ELA and Mathematics content specific sessions. A Montana Common Core Standards ELA and Mathematics online course will be available this summer. Check back often for updated information.

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Remember to always visit the Montana Common Core Standards and Assessment Webpage <http://opi.mt.gov/MontanaCommonCoreStandards> also located on left-hand menu bar of the OPI home page.

Additional resources from a variety of sources are continually added on <http://montanacommoncorestandards.wikispaces.com>. (recently added: links, tools, articles and documents, e.g., "Eye on Common Core" Video Series, vocabulary lists, posters for Mathematical Practices and a presentation from Jere Confrey on Mathematics Common Core).

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium website can be found at www.smarterbalanced.org.

The site showcases the innovative work of the Consortium and provides frequent updates on activities, milestones, and events. Visitors are able to explore an interactive timeline of activities by school year, download new fact sheets and resources, and sign up for a monthly e-newsletter. View the DRAFT Math Item specification that contains a few sample assessment items on <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/#item>

English/Language Arts

Cynthia Green, English/Language Arts Curriculum Specialist

cgreen4@mt.gov

Summer Professional Development Opportunity

Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO) is a 501c3 non-profit organization that runs summer professional development travel programs designed for teachers.

GEEO is offering 16 different travel programs for the summer of 2012: India/Nepal, Vietnam, Thailand/Laos/Cambodia, China, Russia/Mongolia/China, Egypt, Turkey 8 day, Turkey 15 day, South Africa/Mozambique/Zimbabwe/Botswana, Morocco, Argentina/Uruguay/Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, The Galapagos Islands and Costa Rica. **Space is limited!**

Educators have the option to earn graduate school credit and professional development credit while seeing the world. The trips are 8 to 24 days in length and are designed and discounted to be interesting and affordable for teachers. GEEO provides teachers educational materials and the structure to help them bring their experiences into the classroom. The trips are open to all nationalities of K-12 and university educators and administrators, as well as retired educators. Educators are also permitted to bring along a non-educator guest.



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Detailed information about each trip, including itineraries, costs, travel dates, and more can be found at www.geeo.org. GEEEO can be reached 7 days a week, toll free at [1-877-600-0105](tel:1-877-600-0105) between 9AM-9PM EST.

Jesse Weisz
Executive Director
Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEEO)
Toll Free Phone: 1-877-600-0105
jesse@geeo.org
www.geeo.org

Writing Opportunity for Students

The Sejong Cultural Society is hosting a writing competition. Its mission is to "discover children and young adults talented in writing and to encourage them to learn and write about Korea and its culture." For more information, please visit <http://www.sejongculturalsociety.org/writing/current/index.php>

Early Grades

Terry Barclay, Early Grades Curriculum Specialist
tbarclay2@mt.gov

Relationships, Resiliency & Results: The Power of Collaboration in Serving Children and Families

You are invited to join a celebration for the release of the 2011 Montana KIDS COUNT Data Book with a FREE, 3-hour workshop that will feature the latest Montana KIDS COUNT data, as well as an interactive session on cross-program collaboration, presented by nation team-building expert Karen Ray.

When: Wednesday April 4, 2012 9:00 am – 12:00 Noon (Registration and continental breakfast begins at 8:30 am)

Where: Holiday Inn Conference Center Downtown 22 N. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT.

How: Attendance is FREE: Please register online at www.montanakidscount.org. For more information, call 406-243-5113

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Information from the Montana Early Childhood Project (ECP) Career Choices and Challenges

Pyramid Model

The Pyramid Model of promotion, prevention, and intervention is used widely to support children's positive development, physically, social-emotionally, and cognitively. The Pyramid Model is not a curriculum, but a conceptual framework of evidence-based practices. Best Beginnings STARS to quality has adopted the Pyramid Model developed by two national, federally-funded research and training centers to help early childhood programs with their efforts to support positive social emotional development. Below are links to resources that fit within the pyramid framework. There is a wealth of information for directors, classroom teachers, family child care providers, trainers, coaches, and home visitors.

BEHAVIORAL SUPPORT RESOURCES, STRATEGIES, EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES **Center on the Social Emotional Foundation for Early Learning:**

www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel

- ☐ *What Works Briefs*: summaries of effective practices for supporting children's social/emotional development: http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/what_works.html
- ☐ Training kits are based on the *What Works Briefs*, short training packages to conduct a short staff development program on a focused topic. Good follow-up for CSEFEL Pyramid Module training. http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/training_kits.html

Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention:

www.challengingbehavior.org

- ☐ Sign up for e-updates: <http://www.challengingbehavior.org/email.htm>
- ☐ http://www.challengingbehavior.org/do/pyramid_model.htm#resources
- ☐ <http://www.challengingbehavior.org/do/resources.htm>

Zero to Three: www.zerotothree.org

Conscious Discipline: <http://consciousdiscipline.com/resources/>

Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Supports and Interventions:

<http://www.pbis.org/>

- ☐ http://www.pbis.org/community/early_childhood/default.aspx
- ☐ http://www.pbis.org/community/early_childhood/family-centered_pbis.aspx

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC): www.naeyc.org

- ☐ <http://www.naeyc.org/yc/columns/guidance> Column by Dan Gartell

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL): <http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/> (for families and practitioners)

Response to Intervention in early childhood

- ☐ <http://www.crtiec.org/>
- ☐ http://www.crtiec.org/tiered_prevention_model/

INCLUSION

Head Start Center for Inclusion: <http://depts.washington.edu/hscenter/>

National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC):

<http://www.nectac.org/>

COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCE

The Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC):

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc>

Mathematics

Jean Howard, Mathematics Curriculum Specialist

jhoward@mt.gov

Montana Council of Mathematics Teachers (MCTM) and OPI sponsored MCCS professional development academy in June 25-26, 2012

A two-day workshop to learn mathematics content and pedagogy for implementing the new 2011 *Montana Common Core Standards: "Mathematical Practice and Content in grades K-5 and 6-12."*

Workshop for Grades K-5: Groups will split to focus on K-2 Standards and 3-5 Standards with presenters Melissa Romano, JoEllen Moon, Angel Zickefoose, and Mandy Bighorn leading breakout group sessions. 15 OPI renewal units available and one UM college credit optional for additional fee.

Where: Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake, 7653 Canyon Ferry Road, Helena, MT 59602

When: June 24-26, 2012. Sunday evening, Monday, and Tuesday through 3:30 PM. Arrive by 5 PM for check-in and soon to follow dinner.

Registration: \$75 includes two nights lodging on the lake and meals and snacks from Sunday evening through Tuesday afternoon. You will need to provide your own transportation to and from the workshop. Send registration information below as soon as possible. We hope for an overflow crowd to enjoy the beautiful setting on the lake, mathematics learning, and collegial conversations around the campfire.

Workshop for Grades 6-12: Groups will split to focus on 6-8 Standards and 9-12 Standards with presenters Rodd Zeiler, Leanne Yenny, Cliff Bara, and Terri Dahl leading breakout group sessions. 15 OPI renewal units available and one UM college credit optional for additional fee.

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Where: Hilton Garden Inn, 2465 Grant Road, Billings, MT 59102

When: June 25-26, 2012. Monday through Tuesday 3:30 PM. Arrive for 9 AM sharp start.

Registration: \$75 includes Monday night lodging double occupancy and meals and snacks from Monday noon through Tuesday afternoon. You will need to provide your own transportation to and from the workshop. Send registration information below as soon as possible; we hope for an overflow crowd.

Mail the following information and \$75 registration fee to:

Cliff Bara, MCTM Treasurer
PO Box 610
Troy MT 59935-0610

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Food Restrictions (if any) _____

Roommate for Double Occupancy Request _____

For additional information, please contact David Erickson, President MCTM
406-243-5318 or david.erickson@mso.umt.edu or Jean Howard, Mathematics Specialist,
OPI 406-444-0706 or JHoward@mt.gov

Spring Common Core Workshop: May 25 – 27 New Orleans, La

Join teachers, administrators, and district personnel from across the country as we explore together "Focus in the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics." This conference will feature Bill McCallum and his team of Common Core facilitators, including teacher leaders from every grade band. Many of the breakout sessions will be run by teacher experts, leading the way in developing PD for fellow teachers implementing CCSSM. Time in the conference will also be devoted to small group focus on the major work in specific grade bands. Register by the end of March to receive the discounted registration fee!

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Participate In a Survey to Be Used For Implementation of Common Core

Jeffrey Choppin, Associate professor of Mathematics Education at University of Rochester is looking to recruit districts to participate in an online survey around teachers' perceptions of (1) the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSSM) and (2) local efforts to prepare for the CCSSM, in terms of curriculum and professional development. I am able to offer a small payment for participation to compensate teachers for their time. As an incentive for districts to participate, he will provide summaries of the survey results as well as summaries of findings from other districts that participate in the survey. In these summaries, we (the research team) will use measures to protect the confidentiality of the participants. These results will hopefully be useful to districts as they prepare for the implementation of the CCSSM and related assessments.

If you work in a district that you think may be interested in participating, please contact Jeffrey jchoppin@warner.rochester.edu directly so that you can discuss the process of obtaining permission at the district level.

Free Resource for Teachers: Videos of Common Core Lessons

There are over 70 [free videos related to Common Core instruction available on the Teaching Channel](#). The videos provide lesson ideas, an overview of the ELA and Math standards, and demonstrations of teaching practices. Videos vary in length from five to thirty minutes.

Communicating Locally: Frederick County (MD) Public Schools Produces "Eye on Common Core" Video Series

For an example of communicating with local parents and community members on the Common Core State Standards, visit Frederick County Maryland's new TV series, "Eye on the Common Core." [The first episode of the series](#), which focused on how the Common Core Standards will affect the district's Secondary Math curriculum, recently aired on the district's local public access channel.

Mathematics and Science

Springtime in the Rockies Conference - "Implementing the Common Core Standards with Embedded Technology"

April 13 - 15 at the Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake

The Common Core Standards propose to totally alter the classroom by making learning more student-centered. This conference highlights ways to engage students in process learning including use of technology. The latest calculator (e.g. TI-83 Nspire CX) and tablet-based technology (e.g. iPad; Androids) will be demonstrated. Resources such as Great Tasks (National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics product) will stimulate participant construction of open-ended problems that encourage the use of technology as a solution tool. TED Talks (Ideas worth Spreading) will provide a springboard for teacher learning. Kristen Crawford, OPI Science Curriculum Specialist, will present insights into the new Framework for K-12 Science Education on Friday evening. This document

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(http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13165) is what the new common science standards (Next Generation Science Standards) will be almost entirely based upon. Jean Howard, Mathematics Curriculum Specialist, will present on the Montana Common Core Standards, what it looks like in a high school classroom as well as the shifts in instructional practices.

Conference leaders are Paul Andersen and Dick Seitz. Paul (Bozeman Senior HS) was the 2011 MT Teacher-of-the-Year and one of four national finalists. He recently attended a TED Talks conference and is scheduled to record his own TED Talk. Dick (Helena HS Math Department Head) is a member of the NCSM Board of Directors and is the lead high school author of Great Tasks. He has taught internationally with a specialty in the area of graphing calculators. MT Century Link Math and Science Leadership teachers will also present classroom-tested ideas. The conference begins with a 6 p.m. dinner on Friday and concludes by noon on Sunday. **Fifteen OPI renewal credits** will be available.

For more details and registration information, go to www.montanalearning.org, click on Programs, then "Springtime in the Rockies Conference." **Registration deadline is April 1.** The number of conference participants is limited.

Science Fair Professional Development Workshop (Grade 6 – 12 Teachers)

Where: Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake (MLC) www.montanalearning.org

When: July 30 - Aug 2 [Begins 2 p.m. Monday; Ends 4 p.m. Thursday]

Goal: Inform teachers about the goals of science fairs, project preparation process, mentoring students, project judging, and mentor teacher responsibilities.

Ultimate Goal: Generate excitement and commitment to work with students in developing science fair projects.

Description: This hands-on teacher workshop will have its own instructor but includes collaborative activities with the students attending Science Fair Projects Camp being held simultaneously. Teachers have the opportunity to observe the "theoretical" ideas presented in their workshop and interact with students as "mentors." Teachers follow the progress students make on their projects (works in progress) and judge those projects in a simulated Science Fair on Thursday. Some completed science fair projects will be available for comparison. **Twenty OPI renewal credits** may be earned.

Scholarships are available! For Registration and Scholarship information, go to www.montanalearning.org, Programs, then click on Science Fair PD Workshop – read more

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Searching for the Perfect Springtime Learning Activity for Your Students? Host the Noetic Learning Math Contest!

- Fun, friendly academic competition
- A chance for top students to shine
- A terrific math learning opportunity

The Noetic Learning Math Contest is a biannual **problem-solving contest for elementary students**. The contest is in its 4th year and it is quickly gaining popularity in elementary schools across the country. It's convenient for you to set up and it is fun for your students to participate in.

How it works:

- Register at <http://www.noetic-learning.com/mathcontest>
- Administer the test between April 12 to April 19 at your own school
- Grade the test papers and report the scores
- Noetic Learning will announce the winners and send you the medals

Don't Miss Our Next Math Contest Date: Thursday, April 12, 2012

For more information, please visit: <http://www.noetic-learning.com/mathcontest>

Questions? Email: noetic.learning@gmail.com

Science

Kristen Crawford, Science Curriculum Specialist
kcrawford@mt.gov

FREE STEM Videos for High School Classrooms

The [**Blended Learning Open Source Science or Math Studies \(BLOSSOMS\)**](#) initiative, a new project from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, creates videos with a STEM focus for use in high school classrooms. The program features a library with around 50 math and science lessons, available free for download or as streaming video, and also by request as DVDs and videotapes. [Read More](#)

National Conservation Poster Contest- Deadline May 15, 2012

The annual National Conservation Poster Contest provides kindergarten through twelfth grade students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water and related natural resource issues through art. It also highlights the educational outreach efforts of conservation districts and their state conservation associations, auxiliaries and agencies.



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The poster contest theme follows the annual Stewardship theme. The contest is co-sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts and the NACD Auxiliary.

Each year, the poster contest starts at the district level. Individuals and teachers with questions regarding district contests should contact their local district.

Eligibility

The National Conservation Poster Contest is open to kindergarten through twelfth grade students. Artwork entered into the national competition must have been judged in a local or area conservation district sponsored poster contest and a state conservation association or state auxiliary sponsored contest. Posters not sent by authorized state poster group will not be considered for judging.

2012 Contest Theme

The National Poster Contest theme is "**Soil to Spoon**". The contest helps teach students about where their food comes from, highlighting the important role of soils.

Poster category by grade:

- K-1
- 2-3
- 4-6
- 7-9
- 10-12

The contest is open to public, private or home-school students.

The Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) selects a poster for entering in each of the grade divisions or special category and submits it to NACD.

Contest Rules

The contest rules were created so as not to limit or revise the current rules of local and state conservation poster contests:

- Any media may be used to create a flat or two-dimensional effect (paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper or other materials on regular posters – but no computer only special category)
- Poster size must be between 8.5" x 11" and 22" x 28".
- Posters should be **packaged so they remain flat** when sent for judging.
- All posters must be created by an individual student rather than a team of students.
- The 2012 Stewardship title "Soil to Spoon" must be on your poster. This is the only title eligible for the national poster contest.

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- Names on back of posters and must have signed entry form to be eligible for judging.
- Each entry for the national contest **must have the entry form** filled out and signed by guardian or parent to be judged.
- Although younger students will most likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, NACD encourages each student to do as much of the work as possible by him/herself. Entries completed by students in their handwriting and coloring will score better than those designed, drawn and colored by adult assistance.
- Each entry **must have been judged at each conservation district's** or area contest prior to the state evaluation/contest.
- Posters will be judged at the state level and must be received in the MACD office **no later than May 15, 2012.**
- Individual posters cannot be sent for national judging by individuals. They must follow their state's contest rules and deadlines.

Poster Evaluations

National Poster Contest entries are reviewed by judges. The posters are evaluated on the following criteria:

- Conservation message (Poster uses correct theme) (50 percent)
- Visual effectiveness (30 percent)
- Originality (10 percent)
- Universal appeal (10 percent)
- Also taken into consideration: The artwork completed on poster is that of participant (unless noted on entry form)